

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 414

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: KWANGTUNG BRIGADE RAISES COLLECTIVIZATION LEVEL

1. A KWANGTUNG COUNTY (CHUNG SHAN), WELL-KNOWN AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SUN YAT-SEN, HAS PUBLICIZED A CHANGE IN STRUCTURE BY ONE OF ITS UNITS, WHICH IN THE MANNER OF TACHAI HAS FORMED A TWO-TIER ORGANIZATION BY ABOLISHING ITS PRODUCTION TEAMS AND RAISING THE BASIC ACCOUNTING UNIT TO THE PRODUCTION BRIGADE. THE MOVE, BY A SPECIAL BRIGADE OF OVERSEAS CHINESE WHO HAVE RETURNED TO THE PRC, REFLECTS THE CONTINUING PRESSURE ON EXISTING RURAL ORGANIZATION TO MEET GREATER MANPOWER AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON IT BY THE DRIVE TO RAISE PRODUCTION THROUGH MORE INTENSIVE FARMING PRACTICES.

2. RESTRUCTURING OF THE UNIT, AS DESCRIBED IN THE MAY 19 ISSUE OF HONG KONG'S PRC-CONTROLLED WEN WEI PAO, WAS NEEDED TO PROMOTE MECHANIZATION AND TO CARRY OUT A THREE-CROP PLANTING SCHEDULE. LAST YEAR PRODUCTION TEAMS WERE UNABLE TO GENERATE SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO MEET

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THE INTENSIVE FARMING NEEDS OF PLANTING THREE CROPS IN

ONE YEAR. AS A RESULT THE FIRST ATTEMPT FAILED, BECAUSE
RATS AND BIRDS ATE A GOOD PART OF THE INTENDED HARVESTS.

3. NOW, WITH THE PRODUCTION BRIGADE AS THE BASIC
ACCOUNTING UNIT AND THE FORMER TEAM PLOTS "ENLARGED"
(READ: CONSOLIDATED UNDER BRIGADE MANAGEMENT), "COLLECTIVE
PRODUCTION" HAS BENEFITED. THREE CROPS ARE BEING HARVESTED,
AND WITH THE ADDITION OF FOUR NEW TRACTORS, PLOWING IS
NOW MECHANIZED. THE ONLY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED, NOT
SURPRISINGLY, INVOLVED THE QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP.
(PEASANT RESISTANCE TO SURRENDERING CONTROL OVER ASSETS, SUCH AS
EQUIPMENT AND LAND, TO A LARGER UNIT HAS BEEN THE TRA-
DITIONAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO GREATER COLLECTIVIZATION.)

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT AWARE OF OTHER RECENT
INSTANCES OF BOOSTING THE BASIC ACCOUNTING UNIT TO
THE BRIGADE LEVEL, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY OCCURRING ON A
SELECTED BASIS ELSEWHERE. THE PACE HAS BEEN KEPT
DELIBERATE, HOWEVER, TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DISRUPTION OF
THE VITAL GRAIN BASE. AS IN THE CASE WITH THE KWANGTUNG
BRIGADE, THE AID IS FOR THE TACHAI EMULATION CAMPAIGN
AND MECHANIZATION TO MOVE IN TANDEM, WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL
DOUBTERS BEING CONVINCED BY THE PRACTICAL ECONOMIC BENEFIT.
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